

July 13, 1999

TO: William Hubbard  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville MD 20852

5157 '99 JUL 20 P12:18

RE: #98N-1038 "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food."

Dear Mr. Hubbard,

I am writing to you as a deeply concerned citizen to express my outrage at the proposition of being forced to eat irradiated food without warning and without a choice. The prospect of weakening the labeling requirements for irradiated foods not only steals the power of choice from the American consumer, but it introduces potentially harmful long term side effects that have not been studied in humans, and it increases the long term national problem of radioactive waste disposal.

Food treated with radiation must continue to be clearly labeled with the radura symbol and a statement indicating it was treated with radiation. To do otherwise would mislead the public because irradiation destroys vitamins and causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities that are not obvious or expected by the consumer. The use of alternative, deceptive terms like "cold-pasteurized" blatantly lie to the American public, because pasteurization is an entirely different process.

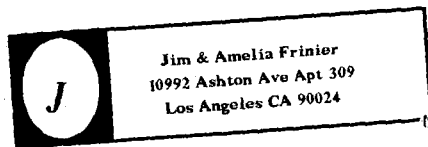
Americans deserve the opportunity to make an informed choice, especially when it comes to their food supply.

As an individual consumer, I refuse to eat food that has been irradiated, and demand that our national food supply be protected from this hazardous process. Please fight to ensure that food labeling requirements are strengthened, not weakened.

Sincerely,  
James C. Frinier



Member of Public Citizen, and other  
concerned Public-interest organizations



William Hubbard  
Dockets Management Branch  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

20852/0001

